arkco
F
417
.W3
F55
51:2

FLASHBACK

Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 51 May 2001 Number 2

FLASHBACK *published occasionally by the*
Washington County Historical Society
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Vol. 2, No. 2-B April, 1952

SPECIAL EDITION

in honor of the pilgrimage of the

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 20,1952

to

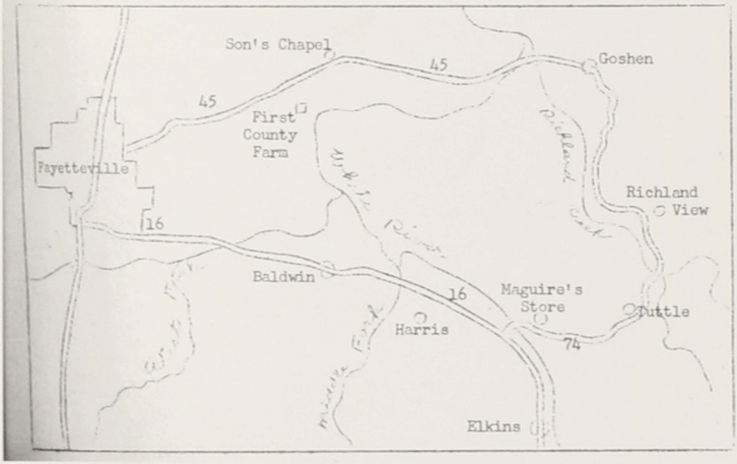
MAGUIRE TOWN and the WHITE RIVER VALLEY

including

Maguire's Store, Tuttle, Richland, Goshen, Son's Chapel,

and the Site of the First County Farm

Tom Feathers, Conductor



Washington County Historical Society

118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

Flashback is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Send all material for publication to the editor at 118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701. There is no payment for articles published in Flashback. The editor retains the right to edit all submitted articles prior to publication.

Membership is invited of those interested in preservation of Washington County's history. Dues are $25 annually for a general membership and $15 annually for Student, Senior or Public Library Membership. Donations, tax deductible according to current law, are gratefully received any time for special projects. Members are mailed Flashback every quarter. Past issues cost $5 each, current year's issues, $4 each.

2000-2001 Officers

President ..... Lionel Skaggs
Immediate Past President ..... Michael Pritchard
1st Vice President (Membership) .... Susan Chadick
2nd Vice President (Finance) ..... Nancy Hendricks
Secretary ..... Gretchen Gearhart
Corresponding Secretary ..... Judy Cockrum
Treasurer ..... Dan Grubb
Flashback Editor ..... Scott Van Laningham
Director of Historic Programs ..... DeeDee Lamb

Board of Directors

David Ervin, Liz Finnell, Jane Gearhart, Babette Goodman, Ann Whitfield Jones, Lorene Maguire, Bob McKinney, Jimmy Rapert, Greg Reed, Doris Sharp, Lynda Starr, Carl Totemeier, C.W. Webb, Jeannie Whayne, Maynette Williams

Cover Photo: Reproduction of the cover of the edition of Flashback, Volume 2, Number 2-B, April, 1952.

FLASHBACK

Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 51 May 2001 Number 2

Contents

Flashback Flashback 2
Maquire's Store 3
Pilgrimmage to Maquire's 10
Battle at Prairie Grove 12
Washington County's 125th Birthday 19
Local History Can Be Fun 26
Distinguished Citizen Award Rules 34
Dolgaruki, Russian Royalty in Our County 35
Professor Lemke's Call to Action 40
New Logo 41

WCHS Home Page

To call up the Washington County Historical Society's home page go to:
www.ipa.net/~wchs
The Society's E-mail address is wchse@ipa.net

The Flashback Continues

As we continue to celebrate the Washington County Historical Society's 50th anniversary, Flashback once again takes a look back at the development of the Society and this publication.

First, your new editor must acknowledge the tardiness of his first publication. Not only did the editing and production of the publication take more time that had been anticipated, the other job (the one that pays the bills) kept getting in the way.

Let us also acknowledge that the last publication was heavy on the written word and light on the pictures, as is this edition. We're working on that.

And, thanks to an excellent suggestion from Charles Stewart, we're working on an entire anniversary edition that will make up for the early lack of pictures. The plan is to devote the final edition of this year to pictures from 1951.

Perhaps there are other faithful readers with favorite pictures they would like to offer for consideration. If so, drop me a note and we'll make arrangements to get a copy of the picture.

And one more housekeeping item. Yes, there was no index in the first publication. The plan is to publish the index for all four publications in the final edition of the year.

Now, for the second anniversary edition. We are continuing with Professor Walter J. Lemke's chronicling of the early days of the Society and FLASHBACK.

-- SVL

Maguire's Store

By Tom Feathers

Maguire's Store, as the community is called in the early U.S. postal guides, is one of Washington County's most picturesque ghost towns. It is also one of the county's interesting historic spots. It is reached by way of the old Huntsville Road, with is now Highway 16 east from Fayetteville to the intersection with Highway 74 about two miles north of Elkins. Highway 74 crosses the main branch of White River and then on to Maguire's Store (about 1 mile), Tuttle, Wesley and Huntsville. The tree-shadowed White River has its bed through what was once the Hosea M. Maguire estate. Maguire's Store is approximately 4 miles west of this line, which is the eastern limit of Washington County.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen Maguire moved to the site of Maguire's Store in the early 1830s, bringing with them their sons, Hosea M. and Greene. They came to Washington County from Bowling Green, Kentucky, to which place they had moved from their native state of North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Maguire were of Scotch-Irish extraction. Both sons were born near Bowling Green, Hosea in 1813. The elder Maguire built the home across the road from the store building, on the broad acres that they had homesteaded before Arkansas became a state.

Another of the community's historic homes was built by Owen's son, Hosea Marmaduke Maguire, in the early 1850s. It was called the "new house" or sometimes "the big house." After the brilliant wedding that united him with Miss Louise Trammel, a Missouri girl, in 1850, and after the wearing of the "second day dress," Hosea took his bride into the big house, which home he had built for her on the same estate and across the road from the home built by his father.

Hosea and his wife reared a large family. John Henry

was the first child, born May 23, 1852; Mary Jane, who married Milburn Moore of Prairie Grove; Josephine, in 1855, who became Mrs. Alf Williams; Nancy Louise (Bedie), born in 1858, and now Mrs. Devin – her husband having come from Viney Grone; Leticia Belle, who died in childhood; William in 1860; and then, years later, the baby of the entire household, Addie, who saw the light of day in her grandfather's old log house. She was the late Mrs. Addie Felker of Fayetteville.

At one time these homes were scenes of gaiety, where beaux in high silk hats and belles in hoops or crinolines, danced to the Arkansas Traveler and other tunes of the times. These homes also have been unwilling hosts to marauding Yankee soldiers. One of the daughters told the story of how the family shivered in bed as blue-coated men carrying swords and muskets, forced the door, entered the home in the dead of night, and tore all the covers from beds, leaving three small girls weeping and coverless in their trundles. ... Men of the family, once large stock owners, have seen both slaves and stock carried off, the former as prisoners or aides, and the later to be butchered to feed the enemy encamped in a grove nearby. ...

Across the street from the store, the vine-covered old blacksmith shop which was operated by Jim Oliver, father of Joe Oliver of Elkins, also has vanished. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver made their home in a two-room house on this same site. The blacksmith shop was noted as the scene of the horse-shoeing of mounts ridden by four of the five bank-robbers who attempted to rob the McIlroy Bank in Fayetteville in 1875.

That even gave the two towns much to talk about for many years. The robbers rode boldly into Fayetteville at noon to hold up the bank, but were apprehended in the act. Before fleeing they staged a shooting party on the public square, using the old barracks located where the post office now stands as breastworks. These robbers killed a

restaurant operator by the name of Wing, who happened to be in their way.

Keb Pettigrew was sheriff and he pressed others into service. George Albright, son-in-law of Stephen K. Stone, a town founder, and George Reed Sr., father of John, Fay, George and Lina X, aided officers. The two fired at the fleeing men and late that evening one of the bandits was found dead from wounds received. The body was abandoned by the other four on South Mountain, where it was discovered by Zebe Mays when he went there to bring up his cow. No one knew whose bullet had been effective. The outlaws rode hard to Maguire's Store, where Oliver unwittingly helped them to escape. "For want of a horseshoe," they undoubtedly would have been overtaken and captured. ...

The death of the Hon. Hosea M. Maguire in 1888, at the time he was a representative from Washington County in the state legislature, dealt a blow to the community from which it did not recover.

Through the Reconstruction period and long after, however, Maguiretown lived and thrived. The coming of the St. Paul branch railroad, the Pacific & Great Eastern Railway, the building of good roads to larger shopping centers, the lure of white collar jobs in the city for boys – all have had their effect in wiping out Maguire's Store, ghost-town of early civilization and pioneer culture.

These following article ended the Volume 2, No.1, edition of February, 1952

Plans for 1952 Activities

The Board of Directors of the Washington County Historical Society will meet the first Tuesday in February to plan for our Society activities in 1952. Tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 9, is an anniversary pilgrimage to the Pea Ridge battlefield in Benton County. The battle occurred March 7-8, 1862 – just 90 tears ago. We plan to meet at Elkhorn Tavern and have an authority sketch the battle for us. Then we hope to visit the spots where Generals McIntosh and McCulloch were killed and where General Slack was mortally wounded.

Our April tour is tentatively planned for the eastern part of the county, to include Maguier's Store and the White Rive region where some of our county's earliest settlements were made.

The Board also plans to hold a public meeting once a month, time and place to be announced to our members by letter. A number of other forms of historical activities are being discussed.

We are sending out 100 sample copies of FLASHBACK and hope that the recipients will like our publication well enough to jour our Society. There will be no further sample copies and future issues of FLASHBACK will be sent to members only. Send your $2 now and get your souvenir membership card and be assured of future issues of FLASHBACK.

The following is the lead article for Volume 2, No. 2, edition of March, 1952.

Pilgrimage

The Pea Ridge battlefield is in Benton County. But the story of the battle is interwoven with events in such Washington County communities as Fayetteville, Elm Springs and Cane Hill. Washington County was well represented in the Arkansas regiments that fought in McCulloch's Confederate division. Few Washington County men were in the Union army at Pea Ridge, because large scale Federal recruiting in our county did not begin until after the battle.

All the Confederate troops that fought at Pea Ridge were acquainted with Fayetteville. Prices' Missourians and McCulloch's Texans had spent some time in Fayetteville after the battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri. Hebert's Louisianans had spent the winter of 1861-62 in Fayetteville. And all the troops that crossed the Boston Mountains from Van Buren enroute to Pea Ridge had camped at Cane Hill and rendezvoused at Elm Springs. In fact, Elm Springs in Washington County was the jumping-off place for the battle of Pea Ridge.

While the battle itself was found in Benton County, most of the Confederate and Union soldiers who died at Pea Ridge now sleep in Fayetteville cemeteries.

So it is only right that the Washington County Historical Society should observe the 90th anniversary of the battle. A pilgrimage to Pea Ridge on March 9 and the publication of this special edition of FLASHBACK are our Society's contributions to the observance.

This special edition is dedicated to the memory of the Confederate dead who sleep in the Confederate cemetery on East Mountain in Fayetteville and the Union dead who sleep in Fayetteville's National Cemetery.

These notes are also from Volume 2, No. 2-B.

NEWS AND NOTES

By W.J. Lemke

On March 9, Miss Elizabeth Curry was my guest on our Historical Society's pilgrimage to Pea Ridge. On the drive back to Fayetteville she told me that her father had fought in the battle of Pea Ridge as a member of Hendrick's Indiana Regiment. She also told me that her father had kept a war-time diary and she promised to secure the diary for me, so that it could be published in FLASHBACK.

Some weeks after our Pea Ridge tour Miss Curry was taken ill. She died April 28, 1952.

She was the fifth member to die since our society was organized a little over a year ago. The others: Mrs. Addie Felker, Nathan Boone Williams, Judge T.H. Humphreys, Mrs. Earle Bates.

The Washington County Historical Society has compiled a list of monuments and markers located in Washington County as a service to its members and to the general public. This is the second county list in Arkansas, the first being Pulaski County, compiled by Margaret Smith Ross of Little Rock. Mrs. Ross, in a talk to the Arkansas Historical Association recently, related the difficulties, as well as the pleasures, of running down the location and inscription on each historical marker.

Board of Directors Holds March Meeting

The WCHS board of directors met March 25 and completed plans for a pilgrimage to Maguiretown and Richland Creek valley to Goshen. The date set was Sunday, April 20.

The Board decided to repeat last year's visit to Evergreen Cemetery, in May, and to attend the memorial exercises at the Confederate cemetery in June.

The secretary-treasurer reported 175 memberships for

1952. He called attention to the great demand for copies of the Pea Ridge edition of FLASHBACK, which had exhausted the Society's supply. It was decided not to sell single copies of future issues to non-members. Henceforth FLASHBACK will go only to members.

The president announced appointment to the board of directors of Mrs. L.E. Maupin (representing Prairie Grove) and Miss Lorraine Williams.

From Vol. II, No. 3, May, 1952

An Unusual Execution in Fayetteville

One of our WCHS members sends us a clipping from the Fayetteville Democrat of April 26, 1894, that contains a detailed account of the hanging at Fayetteville of S.F. Vaughn for a killing in Madison County. According to the Democrat, the condemned man's wife, two grown sons, brothers and other kinsmen visited him on the day before the execution and he was allowed to go with his family to a photo gallery to have a group picture taken. At 5 o'clock in the morning, he said goodbye to his family and "then became rigid." Physicians tried to revive him for two hours but without success. A pine plank was secured and strapped to his back to hold him in an upright position. Four deputies carried him to the scaffold and placed him in a standing position on the trap door.

The Contents of an Old Scrapbook

Old scrapbooks make interesting reading. We recently spent a pleasant hour with a scrapbook kept by Alfred Wilson Gregg between 1874 and the date of his death, Aug. 23, 1880.

Alfred W. Gregg was one of the eight students who enrolled in the University of the first day of the school's existence. In a frame building (the McIlroy home), with two teachers (Gates and Leverett), no library and no

laboratory, the following seven boys and one girl reported for classes on Jan. 22, 1872: Alfred W. Gregg, Andrew S. Gregg, George L. Brooks, H. Frank Buie, John Carlile, C.R. Gilbreath, Robert Putman and Anna Putman. The two Greggs completed their course, Alfred W. Gregg in 1876 and Andrew S. Gregg in 1878. Their names are on the Senior Walk at the entrance to Old Main.

Report of Pilgrimage to Maguire's Store

Passing points of interest on the Society's pilgrimage April 20 to Maguire's Store and the White River valley... Just before leaving the Fayetteville city limits, there was the old Pegram house on the south slope of East Mountain, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Atha. ... The city limits are at the top of the hill immediately beyond this place. ... The hill is known as Slaughter Pen Hill. ... Many animals have been slaughtered here that were retailed at local meat markets. ... Then the touring historians passed through Buckner, which was one of the stops on the route of the Pacific & Great Eastern Railway. ... The first bridge crossed was the one spanning the West Fork of the White River. ... To the west and south of it is the old Stone Farm, now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Goff. ... The mountain south of the farm home is known as Dead Horse Mountain.... Next was the village of Baldwin. That is the name of the post office but when the St. Paul branch of the Frisco had a station here, it was called "Leath." ... And now the bridge crossed was that over the Middle Fork of White River. ... The first road to the south after crossing this bridge passes the former post office and railroad station know as Harris. ... On east some two miles and we were at the intersection of Highway 16 and 74. ... Turning north we crossed the main White River.... Less than a quarter mile east of this bridge was a sign pointing to Round Mountain. .. This road passes through the Meredith

farm.... Some 125 persons gathered at Maguire's Store, the story of which is related elsewhere in FLASHBACK. The easterly direction was continued to the valley of the Tuttle branch. .. A stop was made at the White House cemetery to see some old and unique grave markers. ... Across the road from the cemetery was the White House school. ... The forerunner of the present school and the first at this location was built of logs in 1857 by Nige Neely and Andy Smith. ... The tour continued north from here through Richland Creek valley to Goshen, passing the Richland View school, also known as Frog Level school. ... From Goshen the tour headed west to Fayetteville, with stops at Mount Comfort to see the old graveyard and at the Karl Greenhaw place, to view the magnificent panorama of the Oxford Ben of White River and to hear the story of Washington County's first County Farm which was located there.

-- WJL

From Vol. II, No. 4, July 1952

Name Change for Dickson Street

The proposal of the Fayetteville Planning Board to change the name of some of our streets is meeting opposition. Chief objection seems to be to the name "University Way" for what has been Dickson Street for three-quarters of a century. There was no objection, so far as we know, to our Society's suggestion that the new route of Highway 71 in the south part of town be called "Archibald Yell Drive." The drive overlooks Waxhaws, the home of Arkansas' first Congressman and second Governor. Although the city of Yellville and the county of Yell are named for the hero of Buena Vista, this is the first time his home town has considered using his name.

From Vol. II, No. 5, October, 1952

McRoy Honored

Mr. M.W. "Mack" McRoy, who has been in business in Fayetteville longer than any other man, was honored on his 80th birthday (Sept. 30) when the Washington County Historical Society presented him with a scroll conferring on him the title "Distinguished Citizen." The presentation was made by F.S. Root, member of the SCHS board of directors. Miss Lorraine Williams, also a director of our Society, presented flowers to the honoree.

Mr. McRoy was born in 1872 in a house that stood where Dr. E.F. Ellis now has his office, on College Avenue. The house was later moved to Sutton Street and is still standing. He opened his first printing shop in 1892 upstairs over what is now the Woolworth Store, on the north side of the Square. Mr. McRoy is the senior member of the Fayetteville Printing Company and can be found at his desk every day. FLASHBACK joins a host of his friends in congratulating him on his 80th birthday and the 60th anniversary of his start as a businessman in Fayetteville.

Many Fayetteville citizens have not yet seen the recent astonishing development of Harmon Playfield. Lest the beginning of Harmon Field be forgotten, FLASHBACK has arranged to publish in an early issue the complete story of this civic asset. Mrs. Herman Eason has promised to write an article on how Harmon Field came to be and to bring us up to date on the high school's attractive playground.

Volume II, No. 6 December 1952

Battle of Prairie Grove

FLASHBACK takes pride in presenting, on the 90th anniversary of the battle of Prairie Grove, this overall picture of the battle. There are many accounts of this historic engagement but most of them cover only one small part of the action. It is only by combining the reports of the

commanding generals, newspaper correspondents, a young girl in the Morton's cellar, a non-com in Blocher's Confederate battery, a major of the 11th Kansas Infantry, a college president in Fayetteville, and Captain Pittman wandering over the battlefield by moonlight, that a fairly complete picture emerges. We have also included the preliminary engagement at Cane Hill, the casualty reports, two maps, and other material that will help in understanding this one-day battle in which there were 2,574 casualties.

We have tried to preserve a balance between Northern and Southern sources. There are contradictions in the accounts, which it is impossible to resolve at this late date. But a reading of the material in this issue of FLASHBACK should furnish a fairly clear picture of the strategy of the rival commanders and the movements of the contending armies on that historic day. There was enough glory at Prairie Grove for both the Blue and the Gray.

It is my opinion that Prairie Grove is one of the most under-rated battles of the War. Some historians of the War do not even mention it. Even such a ranking work as Dallas Herndon's "Centennial History of Arkansas" devotes only 20 lines to this decisive battle. For if Hindman had been able to destroy Herrons' Federal army at Prairie Grove – as he was well on his way to doing when Blunt arrived – the way would have been open for a Confederate invasion of Missouri and Illinois. At least, that is the way it looks to an amateur historian from the vantage point of 90 years afterward.

I would like to thank Robert R. Logan and Tom Feathers for their help in reading many of the sources and digging up obscure information about the battle; Alvin Seamster for supplying the Greeley account; Margaret Smith Ross of Little Rock, who made a thorough search of the newspaper files of December 1862 and who discovered valuable data in the files of the Arkansas History

Commission; and Mrs. L.E. Maupin, president of the Prairie Grover chapter of U.D.C., who helped to arrange our 90th anniversary program.

Ninety years have come and gone. But on Sunday, December 7, 1952, the Washington County Historical Society will meet at Prairie Grove to honor the men who fought – and died – here.

W.J. Lemke, editor

From Volume III, No. 1, February, 1953

National Recognition

Our Washington County Historical Society is one of 13 historical societies that were cited for outstanding contributions in the field of local history during 1952. These special awards were announced by the American Association for State and Local History at its recent meeting in Houston, Texas.

Our WCHS was represented at the Houston meeting by Mr. Claude Rankin of Little Rock, who first informed us of the award. Since then, the Awards of Merit have been published in History News. Besides the Washington County Historical Society of Arkansas, Awards went to these societies: Plymouth, Mass.; Burlington, N.H.; St. Augustine, Fla.; Detroit, Mich.; Petersburg, Ill.; San Antonio, Tex.; Waco, Tex.; Kansas City, Mo.; Bradford County, Mo.; Olmstead County, Minn.; Brown County, Wis.

Now that we have won this national recognition it behooves us to keep up our interest and continue our efforts to tell the romantic story of our county.

It was Dr. Dorsey Jones of the University history faculty who suggested we enter our 1952 record at the Houston meeting.

Two Charter Members Die

Our Society has lost two more of its charter members. Mrs. Roberta Fulbright died Jan. 11. She was an enthusiastic supporter of our efforts to preserve our county's history and she attended several of our historic pilgrimages.

Mr. Mack W. McRoy died Jan. 14. He was founder of the Fayetteville Printing Company. His father, J. "Jack" McRoy, was Fayetteville's pioneer carriage maker of the 1840's and 1850's. Mr. M.W. McRoy was the recipient of our Society's Distinguished Citizen award on his 80th birthday Sept. 30, 1952.

Both Mrs. Fulbright and Mr. McRoy helped make Washington County history. It is fitting that they rest in Evergreen cemetery among the many earlier builders of our town.

A Story about the Late Zeke Proctor

By Wythe Walker

Some time ago an article by Tom Feathers in FLASHBACK mentioned the name of Zeke Proctor. Please tell Mr. Feathers that I never knew that anyone other than I alive ever heard of Zeke Proctor. Dad, Uncle Vol, and their father David handled the legal aspect of Mr. Zeke's youthful indiscretions. Mr. Zeke had killed eleven men and one woman. Dad also said the Zeke felt some degree of remorse for his female victim, as it was purely accidental on his part, and actually constituted suicide, as she carelessly aligned herself in front of his pistol whilst he was hurrying some his acquaintances in to the arms of their Maker.

Mr. Proctor ever sat with his back against a wall, fearing cold drafts or hot lead.

A story Dad used to tell will not sound amusing today, as the art of "Story Telling" is as lost as the art of hardening

bronze. (Uncle Vol, Uncle Jack, and Dad were some of the last exponents of this skill.) Anyhow, while Dad was defending Mr. Zeke for Zeke's right to keep his neck intact, they and the jury ate at the same country board house. One of the Jurors had with him his wife and young son, and the entire company, when not brushing flies off the vittles, were as perturbed as though they were in a cage with a gorilla. The atmosphere was definitely tense; no one could or would start a conversation. (Dad would tell this and make it hilariously funny) Every time Mr. Zeke would twitch, the Juror would say to his son, "Wally, pass Mr. Proctor the beans!"

There is a most important legal point which Mr. Feathers has missed but which Dad always got a big laugh from. Oklahoma was run by the US government marshals as a Territory. Zeke was getting tired of killing people. The US government was getting tired of chasing Zeke. Therefore Walker and Walker, as moral and legal advisers to Zeke, drew up an agreement whereby the Federal marshal agreed and signed, as did Mr. Zeke, to wit: The Great Government of the The United States would drop all charges against Zeke, and Zeke would agree to conduct himself in an orderly manner. Zeke and the United States both affixed their signatures thereto and this constituted the first and last case of the United States Government signing a General Treaty of Amnesty with a private citizen, or better, a private citizen signing a Treaty of Amnesty with the United States Government.

This story is about 100% accurate. However, you might have the University's Law school check this for full veracity, as Dad never was a man to spoil a good story by biasing it with complete fact.

From Vol. III, No. 4, May 1953

Romantic Fashions of Long Ago

Fashions of a bygone era were worn at a reception May 18 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lewis, Sr. The party was in honor of the older members of the Guild of St. Paul's Church. The Guild was founded in 1877.

Mrs. Herbert Lewis Jr. wore a dress that had been worn nearly a century ago at President Buchanan's inaugural ball in Washington. The lady who wore it on that occasion was Miss Sawyer of Vermont, the grandmother of Mrs. Clifton Reed McMichael. Mrs. McMichael also has the beautifully engraved invitations, bearing President Buchanan's portrait.

Still older was the shawl of black lace that was worn by Mrs. Gertrude Miles. It had once belonged to Mrs. McMichael's great-grandmother. Mrs. McMichael herself wore a cape-with-jet that had belonged to her grandmother.

Another stunning dress of the long ago was a pink dress-with-train that once belonged to Miss Linda X. Reed. It was worn by Mrs. Lindloff. There was a display of lovely old fans on the dining room table and other fine antiques were scattered through the rooms.

I thank Mrs. Miles for inviting me to this historic affair. I thoroughly enjoyed it, in spite of the fact that there was only one other man present, the Episcopal rector.

W.J. Lemke

From Vol. III, No. 5, August, 1953

Distinguished Citizens

F.S. Root, for nearly half a century teacher and superintendent of Fayetteville schools, was honored June 30 by the Washington County Historical Society when he was cited as a "Distinguished Citizen." The ceremony took place on the front lawn of the Root home on the honoree's

85th birthday. More than one hundred society members and friends gathered to hear Tom Feathers and O.E. Williams pay tribute to Mr. Root's long and distinguished service to Our Town. Mr. Williams presented the Distinguished Citizen scroll to Mr. Root, who responded with a brief appreciation. Mr. Root's sisters, Miss Lutie Root and Mrs. A.C. Uker, served refreshments to the large group of neighbors and friends.

Mrs. Maude Duncan of Winslow was honored with the Historical Society's Distinguished Citizen award in a ceremony at Mt. Gayler on Sunday, July 12. Mrs. Duncan has been editor and publisher of the Winslow American and a community leader in Winslow for longer than half a century. Mrs. Isabel France, well-known newspaper columnist ("Hills of Home"), spoke appreciatively of "Miss Maudie's" work. The scroll and a gift were presented to Mrs. Duncan by W.J. Lemke, president of the Historical Society. Refreshments were served by Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Bellis, members of our Society.

Judge B.F. Campbell, Washington County pioneer, will receive our Society's Distinguished Citizen award on July 25, the 96th birthday anniversary of this builder of Our Town and Our County. He was born on Middle Fork in this county on July 25, 1857. Judge Campbell is being cited for his services as county judge, postmaster, Chamber of Commerce president, bank director, organizer of the county fair, chairman of the water commission, etc. At 96 he is in good physical condition except for deafness. The presentation will take place at Judge Campbell's home atop the hill on East Dickson street. O.E. Williams will present the scroll on behalf of our Society.

On August 19, the Washington County Historical Society will make its Distinguished Citizen award to Dr. E.F. Ellis. It will be Dr. Ellis's 90th birthday and the family and our Society are planning a proper observance of the occasion. Our Society members will be informed of the

time for the scroll presentation. It is not necessary to tell our own folks what this great family doctor has meant to Our County.

On September 17, we will honor a devoted woman whose life bridges the pioneer past and the modern present. On September 17th, her birthday, the Distinguished Citizen citation will be awarded to Mrs. Ellen Richardson for her unselfish services in preserving the history of pioneer days. The ceremony will be held in the house in which she was born – the lovely 100-year-old Earle home at Cane Hill.

From Vol. III., No. 6, October 17, 1953

Washington County's 125th Birthday

This issue of FLASHBACK is published on the 125th anniversary of the legislative act creating Washington County. In observance of the anniversary, we present on the following pages an outline history of the county's first settlement and organization.

The act creating Washington County was passed at Special Session of the General Assembly of the Territory of Arkansas, held in the Town of Little Rock from October 6 to October 22, 1828. The act, approved by Governor George Izard on October 17, 1828, reads as follows:

An act to lay off and erect a new county, in the northwest part of the Territory of Arkansas, to be called and known by the name of Washington.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Territory of Arkansas that all that portion of the county bounded and described as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point where the western boundary of the territory strikes the northern boundary line of town twelve north; thence east with the northern boundary of town twelve north to the western boundary line or range twenty-five west; thence north with said line to the southern boundary line

of the state of Missouri; thence west with said boundary line to the southwest corner of the state of Missouri; thence south with the western boundary line of the Territory of Arkansas to the beginning, be constituted and erected into a new county to be called and known by the name of Washington; and henceforth the county of Lovely shall be extinguished.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the taking effect of this act, the county hereby established shall be vested with all the privileges, powers, and immunities, of a separate and distinct county.

Sec. 3. And it be further enacted, that this act shall take effect, and be in force, from and after the first day of November next.

John Wilson, speaker of the House of Representatives
Edwin T. Clark, President of the Legislative Council

Approved:
October 17, 1828
Geo. Izard

Formation of the County

1816 – William Lovely, government Indian agent who lived on the Arkansas River, made an unauthorized purchase from the Osage Indians of the territory which is now northwest Arkansas and northeast Oklahoma.

1817 -- The United States made a treaty with the Cherokees, granting them lands that included Lovely's Purchase, and all white settlers were ordered off.

1824 -- Congress passed a bill extending the Arkansas boundary to 40 miles west, but the order of 1817 still prevented white settlers.

1827 -- The Arkansas Territorial Legislature passed an act creating Lovely County, which included the "40-mile" strip in the Indian country. This was an obvious attempt to

open Lovely's Purchase to white settlers and several hundred did move in.

1828 -- A new treaty with the Cherokees established the present western boundary. Thus most of Lovely County became part of the Indian Territory. What was left of Lovely County became Washington County by act of October 17, 1828. It originally included all of what is now Washington and Benton Counties and parts of Madison and Carroll.

First Settlers

1819 -- The first white man in what is now Washington County may have been Frank Pierce, a trapper and hunter who is said to have come up the White River within 2 miles of where Fayetteville now is.

1826 -- Several white families settled in the western part of the county, among them McGarrar, Simpson, Shannon, Alexander and Bean. They were ordered off of the Cherokee lands by a company of soldiers from Fort Gibson but they did not leave.

1827 – With the creation of Lovely County, other families started coming in, including the advance guard of the Cumberland Presbyterians from Pulaski County (Pyeatts, Carnahans, Buchanans, etc.)

1828-1829 – Big influx of settlers. They located on Lee's Creek, Cove Creek, Middle Fork, Richand Creek, and the villages of Cane Hill, Evansville, Cincinnati, Rhea's and Fayetteville.

First County Government

The first county officials, appointed in 1828, were Lewis Evans, sheriff; Larkin Newton, clerk; and John Skelton, coroner. The first county judge was appointed in 1830; he was Robert McCamy.

Commissioners to locate the county seat, named in the

act creating the county, were Lewis Evans, Larking Newton, Smauel Vaughn, John Woody and Isaac Marrs, all of whom lived in the southwest part of the new county. They selected a central location, originally called Washington Court House but in a few months changed to Fayetteville.

The first court was held March 1829, Judge James Woodson Bates presiding. This court created four townships -- Vineyard, Cane Hill, Prairie, and Richland. It appointed John Wilson, county surveyor. It ordered the first road worked from Fayetteville to the southern boundary of the county at Cove Creek.

This court was held in the dwelling house of John McGarrah, who had built two log cabins. The sum of $49.75 was appropriated for building a courthouse. The contract was awarded to Samuel Marrs, who built the first courthouse of logs. The first brick courthouse was built in 1838 by contractor Wm. M. Kincaid for $5,000. The first jail was built in 1839 of stone, with walls 42 inches thick. The contract was let to Mathew Leeper for $4,460. Archibald Yell was appointed to superintend its construction.

Washington County's first representatives in the legislature were in 1829 – John Alexander in the lower house and James Billingsley in the upper house.

Archibald Yell of Fayetteville became Arkansas' first Congressman in 1836. In 1840 he was elected Governor of Arkansas.

First Post Offices

According to information from the Post Office Department in Washington, the first post office in Washington County was called Washington Court House, established Feb. 9, 1829. The name of the post office was changed to Fayetteville six months later.

The second post office was established at Vineyard on

Feb. 21, 1829; and the name later changed to Evansville. The third post office was established near Cane Hill on Oct. 13, 1829.

Other early post offices in the county were:

Richland Creek 1832
War Eagle 1832
Sylva (now Cincinnati) 1839
Steam Mill (later Boonsboro) 1839
Brush Creek 1840
Marrs Hill 1840
Sweet Home 1840
Cove Creek 1844
West Fork 1848
Elm Springs 1848

Elias C. Boudinot

Elias C. Boudinot, son of Kill-kee-nah, a Cherokee of royal lineage, later called Elias Boudinot in honor of a Frenchman who was his devoted friend when they were in school in Cornwall, Conn., came to Fayetteville in 1856. For a time he was associate editor of the Fayetteville Arkansian. He was secretary of the Secession Convention in 1861. At the age of 25 he was made chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee. Espousing the cause of the Confederacy, he rose to be Lieutenant Colonel. Before the war, Boudinot was identified with all civic life in Fayetteville, being a Councilman, an incorporator of schools, and seeking railroad connection for the town. ... He was the soul of honor and chivalry, and knew nothing about fear.

(Campbell)

A Word of Appreciation

To my many congratulating friends who, in person or by message, wished me "Good Cheer" and "Longevity" on by 85th birthday:

An expression of gratitude is insufficient through which to convey one's inner feelings in cases such as the

reception of a citation for Distinguished Citizenship, especially from the Washington County Historical Society. Yet, I must say that I am truly grateful for the citation.

I must admit that I fully enjoyed my nearing 50 years continuous service in the Fayetteville Public Schools and also the high privilege of active participation in Public Relations organizations, but I am conscious of the fact that credit for achievements should be shared with the following groups: First, those inspiring instructors in a Presbyterian Seminary and those in two State Teachers Colleges, under whom I pursued my education; Second, the honorable and business-minded School Boards under whom I served; Third, the well—qualified and sacrificing teaching staff (I emphasize sacrificing); Fourth, the vivacious pupils who through the public schools endeavored to find their niche in life; and last but not least, the ever cooperating patrons and general public, and the stimulating support of the Northwest Arkansas Times. Without the cooperative support of all of these groups, no public school system can render its fullest obligated services.

We the all-inclusive groups, ever endeavored to keep in view benefits to the child, a high standard in teaching efficiency, and an equitable return service for the taxpayer's dollar - in those days dollars were definitely limited.

-- F.S. Root

From Volume 4, No. 2, March 1954

Society Holds Its Annual Dinner Meeting

The annual dinner meeting of the WCHS was held Jan. 19 in Ferguson's dining room in the Mountain Inn. The historical murals that Ralph Ferguson has recently had painted on the walls of this room made a perfect setting for the occasion. These murals show the old mills at Rhea's

and Cane Hill, the early churches at Shiloh and Baptist Ford, the Fayetteville Square of 1871, and other historic places in Our County.

W.J. Lemke presided as master of ceremonies and everyone in attendance was given an opportunity to relate a bit of local or family history. A special feature was the presentation of a briefcase to Tom Feathers, in recognition of his services as the Society's secretary-treasurer during the past three years. Miss Jobelle Holcombe made the presentation. The only official business transacted at the dinner meeting was the election of officers for 1954. Dr. Fount Richardson, chairman of the nominating committee, recommended the re-election of the '53 officers – W.J. Lemke, president; R.R. Logan, vice-president; and Tom Feathers, secretary-treasurer. They were re-elected by acclamation.

Board of Directors Hold First Session

The board of directors of the WCHS held its first 1954 meeting on Feb. 8 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Lemke. Fourteen members of the board were present.

Two new members, both enthusiastic workers in local history, were named to the board – Miss Rowena Gallaway and Thomas Rothrock.

After a discussion of the Society's "Distinguished Citizen" award, it was decided to have a committee draw up a statement of policy in regard to the award. The committee, consisting of R.R. Logan, chairman; A.S. Humphreys, and Fount Richardson, will make its report at the March meeting of the board.

It was voted to purchase a filing cabinet for the secretary, for the purpose of storing the photographs, letters, newspapers, and other materials that have been presented to the Society.

The secretary reported a total of 169 members for 1954 and $300 in the treasury. Each board member then agreed

to contact ten former members who have not yet renewed their membership for 1954.

Following the business meeting, the directors engaged in an observance of Mrs. Lemke's birthday. She was given several gifts from the board. Valentine refreshments were served.

Local History Can Be Fun

By W.J. Lemke

I owe thanks to two members of our Society for solving two problems that had puzzled me. One was the location of Camp Walker, where many Washington County men who served in the Confederate Army received their first training in the summer of 1861. Alvin Seamster has answered that one for me. The other was a mysterious killing on John Wilson's farm on Cove Creek in 1859. Margaret Smith Ross sent me the information on that one. Here's how the two questions came up:

Question 1

Mayor Seamster and I were returning from a historical society meeting at Joplin. Just for conversation I brought up the subject of Camp Walker's location, knowing the Mayor of Bentonville prides himself on his knowledge of historical events in Benton County. I knew that Camp Walker was somewhere near Maysville, so I suggested that it might have been across the line in Indian Territory. That really spurred the Mayor to action, and a week later I received the following letter:

Dear Mr. Lemke: I was so curious to locate Camp Walker that I spent Sunday afternoon in Maysville and had good results. I found several men in the drug store at Maysville who were sons or grandsons of men who had trained there and knew all about the camp. So here is:

Camp Walker, Benton County, Arkansas

The location of Camp Walker in west Benton County is 1 1/2 miles northeast of Maysville. ... The camp was about 1 1/2 miles long, north and south, and 1 mile east and west, on a high point where the approach of an enemy could be detected.

The camp used a part of the land owned by the Benton County Harmonial Society, organized in 1860, and used some of their buildings for barracks, and their mill, located south of the camp, where Pactolus was located, for their meal and flour. In 1864, the buildings were burned and the Society abandoned the 520 acres they owned, all but the miller and he operated the mill several years.

This camp was located on the Old Military Road from Fort Smith to Fort Scott, Kansas, which had been built by the army several years before the war and run on the west line of Benton County to Maysville, then in a northeast direction to Noel, Mo.

On the site of the camp is one large spring and at each end, north and south, there is a stream where the soldiers obtained water.

This camp was established in 1861 and was used as a training camp for all northwest Arkansas. It was also used by General Stand Watie's regiment of Creeks and Cherokees. Capt. Yeargin of Delaware County, I.T., and Capts. Hugh Tinnin's and W.H. Hendren's companies were under the command of Gen. Stand Watie during the war. These were Benton County companies.

Other companies raised in Benton County and their Captains were: J.H. Hobbs, Cyrus L. Pickens, John Miser, Tom Jefferson, James Ingram, Bill (Buck) Brown and James Cooper. Capts. T.T. Hays and Daniel McKissick organized two companies that disbanded after the battle of Wilson Creek but later joined other Confederate regiments.

--Alvin Seamster

So far an I know, this is the first time that the location of Camp Walker has been pin-pointed in print. Not satisfied with his first trip to Maysville – or just because he is campaigning for the office of Benton County judge – Mayor Seamster took another trip to the western border of Arkansas and came up with some interesting information about two noted Cherokees who played dramatic roles in the early history of Benton and Washington counties. Here's Mr. Seamter's letter:

Dear Mr. Lemke: Saturday, May 20, I made an important discovery. I visited the Polson Cemetery, 3 miles west of Southwest City, Mo., to view the grave of General Stand Watie. The inscription of his tombstone is:

IN HONOR OF GEN. STAND WATIE, ONLY FULL BLOOD INDIAN BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY RENDERED HEROIC SERVICE TO THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN INDIAN TERRITORY BORN IN GEORGIA, 1806; DIED IN THE INDIAN TERRITORY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1871.

A TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY BY OKLAHOMA DIVISION, UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY.

LEST WE FORGET

Then, the startling discovery of a stone not far from the grave of General Stand Watie. This is what it said:

THE RIDGE

MAJOR, MORGAN'S CHEROKEE CAVALRY, 1812

DIED JUNE 22, 1839

I had not known where he was buried. Goodspeed gives a report of his death on page 152. As you know, he was assassinated with his brother, Elias Boudinot, and his son, John Ridge. They were murdered by members of the John Ross party. This cemetery is very old and stands at the edge of the prairie in the northeast corner of the old Cherokee Nation.

--Alvin Seamster

Question 2

The search for the facts about the killing on John Wilson's farm was interesting. I had received an unsigned note that read: Tragedy at Mr. John Wilson's on Boston Mountain in 1860. May be on Mr. J.D. Eagle's farm." While mulling over this tip, I remembered that there are 12 or more pioneer John Wilsons buried in old graveyards in Washington County. I am familiar with the early settler who sleeps on J.D. Eagle's farm on a mountain top east of the Fayetteville airport. I had a feeling that he was not the man. It occurred to me that the murder might have been published in the newspapers of the day, so I asked Mrs. Ross of Little Rock to search the files of the Fayetteville Arkansian at the History Commission in the Old State House. A few days later I received the following report:

Dear Mr. Lemke: I found the Arkansian of March 30, 1860, but the only thing in that issue was the administrator's notice, which I copied. Then I looked back and found two more items on the subject. Neither was labeled Tragedy at Mr. John Wilson's on Boston Mountain," and I'm wondering if there isn't another notice about it that I haven't found. Anyhow, I looked at the next few issues after the murder was first reported and didn't find any kind of follow-up story. Here are the three items. – Margaret Smith Ross

From the ARKANSIAN (Fayetteville), Nov. 11, 1859

MAN FOUND DEAD

We are permitted to make the following extract from a letter received by a gentleman of this city.

On yesterday, I attended the inquest that was held over the body of a man that was found dead on Saturday last. He had been staying for a few days and Mr. Wilson's on the Mountain Road near the line between this county and

Crawford. He was found in Wilson's field in a short distance of Road, a rifle near him empty, the gun belonged to the deceased. Whether he was killed by accidental firing of his own gun or intentional discharge of it, is not known, but it is certain that he was shot. He had on his person $237.90. No papers that give any clue to his name or residence were found. He told Wilson that his name was Hart and he lived in Kentucky.

From the ARKANSIAN (Fayetteville), Nov. 18, 1859

SUSPECTED MURDER

On the 5th inst., the dead body of a man found in a field belonging to John Wilson on the mountain road in this county. He had been shot through the left breast; whether by himself or some other person is unknown. A rifle gun was found by his side discharged. He had been staying at Wilson's for a few days, and said he was looking at the land, in order to purchase for the benefit of his sons. He gave his name as Hart; said he was from Kentucky. He was a heavy set man, about 50 to 55 years of age; whiskers under lower jaw; had on an eastern-made cottonade frock coat, hickory shirt, early colored home-made jeans pants, home-made shoes, and mildewed Panama hat. About $230 in specie were found upon his person, and two pocketbooks about empty.

Since writing the above, we received the following, which gives the particulars of this mysterious affair more fully.

Cove Creek Township, Washington County, Ark.

Editors of the ARKANSIAN:

There has been considerable excitement in this part of Washington County and the adjacent part of Crawford County in consequence of finding a man who had been murdered, on the Mountain Road near the line between these two counties.

The man was found on Saturday the 5th day of November 1859. And on Sunday, the 6th an inquest was held over the dead body. The decision of the jury was that he came to his death by a gunshot, the ball entering the breast on the left side, but who did the deed remains to be found out. On the 9th inst., there was a general uprising of an indignant community, determined if possible, to ferret out and bring to justice, the fiend in human form who committed this brutal cold-blooded murder. And for that purpose a meeting was held and a committee appointed to enquire into the matter; and after examining several witnesses, from whom the committee could get no testimony that would convict any person, though all the proof points the same way. We still hope we may be able to get proof sufficient to fasten conviction on the guilty person.

There were found on his person $236.90; he had two purses, one containing gold and other silver, the small book contained several dollars in paper money, the large book had evidently been rifled of its contents, what the contents were we know not, but suppose it to be paper money.

We believe the money found on the person of the deceased, was left for the purpose of making the impression that he came to his death by the accidental firing of his own gun, or the intentional shooting of himself. But it is impossible for any man to shoot himself through the heart, and be found in the position that this man and gun were in, hence, this great dissatisfaction and excitement, for nine out of ten believe it was premeditated murder, and therefore we will not be satisfied until justice is satisfied, and the law satisfied; and the Law says, "that whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

We learned from Mr. John Wilson (with whom the deceased had been staying for a few days pervious to his

death) that his residence is in Kentucky, and that he called his name Hart.

You will please publish the foregoing and ask Kentucky papers to copy.

J. Brewster, Secretary
JOSEPH BRYANT, Chairman

From the ARKANSIAN (Fayetteville), Friday, March 30, 1860:

Public Administrator's Notice

Notice is hereby given, to all persons that may be interested, that some time about the 10th of November, 1859, a man by the name of HART came into Washington County, Arkansas, and stopped for a few days at Mr. John Wilson's on Boston Mountain in said county, for the purpose of resting and looking at the country, as he said. After remaining a few days with Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hart was found in a small field near the house of Wilson, dead, having been shot through the body. The deceased had a rifle gun lying near him, which he frequently hunted with during his stay with Wilson. Whether he shot himself accidentally, or whether he was shot by some depraved fiend, is yet to be found out. Mr. Hart said he lived in Kentucky. I have been called upon as Sheriff and Public Administrator of Washington County, to take charge of his effects, and now have in my possession, Two hundred and twenty six dollars ($226.00) in gold, three dollars and ninety cents ($3.90) in silver, two bills on the Bank of Tennessee, one for five dollars ($5) and the other for three dollars ($3), one rifle gun, shot pouch, bullet moulds, a small bundle of clothing, and a pair of spectacles, which I would be pleased to turn over to the proper person, if known, after expenses are paid.

John Crawford
March 30, 1860
Sheriff and Public Administrator

If anyone still doubts that history can be fun, let him ponder these two bits of research. Maybe the location of the Confederate Camp Walker and the killing on Cove Creek of an unknown man with $230 in his pockets aren't important – in this atomic age, BUT THEY SURE ARE INTERESTING – in any age. Meaning, that there are some values that never change. History is one of them.

W.J. Lemke

Board Meetings

The March meeting of the WCHS Board of Directors was held at the home of Mrs. Mertye McIlroy Bagby. Rules for the Society's "Distinguished Citizen" award were reported by a committee composed of Messrs. Logan, Humphrey and Richardson. The rules, as adopted, are published elsewhere in this issue. It was decided that our Society will mark soldiers graves in Evergreen cemetery on Memorial Day, since the soldier dead in the National Cemetery and in the Confederate Cemetery are decorated by other organizations. The secretary reported 179 paid-up members for 1954.

The April meeting of the Board was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Feathers. A pilgrimage to the Middle Fork valley was planned for Sunday, April 25. A stop will be made at the Stokenbury cemetery near Elkins, to view the graves of Robert McCamy, first county judge; Hosea Maguire, early representative in the legislature; and other pioneers. Stops will also be made at the 100-year-old Salem burying ground and at the picturesque cemetery of Sulphur City where sleep many pioneers, including 111-year-old Peter Mankins who helped survey the site of Fayetteville. It was decided to have a general meeting of the Society on May 2, with an informal program in which the audience is invited to participate. The secretary

reported 217 paid-up members for 1954.

The May meeting of the Board will be held May 4 at the home of Mrs. Cleo Ucker, with F.S. Root, who is Mrs. Ucker's brother, acting as host. At this meeting, nominations will be received for the Society's 1954 "Distinguished Citizen" awards.

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

As made by the
Washington County Historical Society

Nomination for DISTIGUISHED CITIZEN may be made by any member of the Society, or by any individual or group in the County. Nominations must be presented in writing, and must list the accomplishments of the nominee.

Generally, the nominee will be a member of a family that has lived in the County for many years. But in all cases the nominee must have spent a major portion of his life as a resident of the County.

To be considered for an award, the nominee should have completed his active business, political, profession or other career.

The nominee shall have been recognized as having achieved success and respect in his chosen vocation.

Some significant contribution to the welfare of the community should be attributable to the nominee. Leadership devoted to the general good of the County and its people should be an important test.

Only those candidates should be selected who would receive general public approval and reflect credit upon the award.

Nomination may be received at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors and may not be voted upon until the next regular meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot and the unanimous vote of all the members present, a majority

of the members of the Board being present, shall be necessary for election to receive the award. Notice of elections for awards shall be sent to all directors by the President, or at his direction by the Secretary, prior to balloting.

The time and place for presentation of the award shall be determined by the Board of Directors or a committee thereof.

Adopted, March 1954

From Volume 4, No. 5, September, 1954

DOLGARUKI

Cincinnati is a sleepy village in the western part of Washington County, just a few miles from the Oklahoma line. In its heyday it was the cultural and trade center of that section. The principal of the Cincinnati Academy and one of the community's leaders was Professor Welch, brother of Fayetteville's prominent early-day physician. Among other accomplishments he was a musician of considerable ability. Old-timers recalled his concert appearances in Fayetteville and the triumph of the Cincinnati band in competion at Muskogee and elsewhere.

One day, some three score years ago, there walked into Cincinnati, a man who was to draw the attention of newspapers in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago to the little Washington County hamlet. His name was Dolgaruki.

He was quite evidently a foreigner and his courtly manners, linguistic ability, and musical talent, stamped him as a man who had been of some importance in his native land. He showed a desire to be left alone and the Cincinnatians, in whom he caused much conjecture and tongue-wagging, respected his privacy.

Gradually, the newcomer fell into the even tenor of the

community life. Professor Welch induced him to give music instruction and there are people living in Cincinnati and Fayetteville today who took piano lessons from Dolgaruki. He never shed his reserve and never mentioned his past. The fact that he knew the Russian language and had intimate knowledge of the Czar's court and his acquaintances with the capitals and celebrities of other European countries were revealed to the natives of Cincinnati by the children who came under Dolgaruki's instruction.

If he wanted a hide-away, the Russian could not have found a better spot than the little village of Cincinnati, off the beaten track and just a few miles from the Indian country. He never received any mail at Cincinnati although it is possible that on some of his long walks he may have gone to neighboring towns to call for mail.

The denouement of the Dolgaruki mystery was the result of the Russian's piano artistry. He was playing a Rubenstein number one day when Professor Welch entered and complimented him highly on the excellent rendition. "I ought to know how to play Rubenstein," said Dolgaruki, "for I studied the piano under him."

In a sudden burst of confidence he revealed that he had been educated by the tutors of the Russian royal court. He revealed other bits of information from which Professor Welch concluded that the Cincinnati mystery man was none other than the son of the Russian Czar by a morganatic marriage. Sent to Siberia in a political upheaval, he had escaped and made his way to America.

Professor Welch was then arranging for the appearance of a group of Cincinnati musicians at a concert in Fayetteville. He asked Dolgaruki to play the Rubenstein number at the concert. Dolgaruki consented. Later when the printed program appeared and he discovered that he did not have the place of honor on the program, he refused to play. A last minute change was made and Dolgaruki

furnished the climax for one of the finest musical programs ever given in Fayetteville.

An account of the concert with special emphasis on the performance of the Russian virtuoso Dolgaruki was sent to the Springfield, Mo., paper by its local correspondent and was copied by the newspapers in St. Louis and Chicago. Sometime later the story was reprinted in the New York and Philadelphia papers.

As a result of this publicity Dolgaruki became highly nervous and one day the village of Cincinnati awoke to discover that the mystery man had disappeared. A day or two after his disappearance reporters from northern and eastern papers began arriving in Cincinnati. They asked a thousand questions and revealed to the startled Cincinnatians that the man they had sheltered for two years was indeed a scion of the Russian royal house.

The piano on which he played, the house in which he lived, and the people who knew him best were photographed and the pictures appeared in the nation's leading papers. Dolgaruki was gone. He never returned.

"I ought to know about Dolgaruki," said the lady who told me the story. "I studied piano under him."

W.L. Lemke

From Volume 4, No. 6, November 1954

History Up to Date

Although the proposed new reservoir, on Clear Creek (Frog Bayou) above Lake Fort Smith, will be in Crawford County, it will affect some members of the WCHS, especially Mr. and Mrs. Owen France, whose home will be submerged. Also, the proposed lake will make necessary the removal of the historic old Vaught cemetery, just south of Shepherd Spring. Here are buried several Civil War soldiers, including James Vaught of Co. A 1st Arkansas

Infantry, and Andrew Parker of Co. L, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry. Here also lies G.W. Sims, "born Jan. 14, 1777, died Jan. 1, 1890, age 112 years 11 months 17 days."

When a New York resident named Valyear recently wrote to the University for information about Don Joseph Valliere, Miss Georgia Clark, reference librarian in the University library, was able to tell him that the Valliere family record is in Deed Book D in the Washington County courthouse. The late Mrs. Zillah Cross Peel had discovered the Valliere material in 1938 while working on the WPA Historical Records survey. If, as we suspect, the New York gentleman is interested in the land grant to Don Joseph Valliere "on the headwaters of White River," we can tell him that the courts extinguished that title, as far as Washington County is concerned, over a hundred years ago.

Admittance of a few Negro pupils to Fayetteville High School this fall is the latest development in the history of the Negro race in Washington County. The biggest change, of course, occurred in the decade 1860-1870, when the white population increased from 13,102 to 16,590, while the Negro population of Washington County dropped from 1,538 to 674 – a loss of 864. Many of these Negroes, probably most of them, went to Kansas during and after the Civil War. Prairie Township (Fayetteville) showed an increase from 278 Negroes in 1860 to 330 in 1870. But the agricultural sections lost most of their Negroes, as is shown by the following figures:

	1850	1860	1870	Loss
Illinois Township	325	461	52	409
Cane Hill Township	279	342	108	234
Richland Township	107	96	17	70
Vineyard Township	64	77	16	61
Marrs Hill Township	64	26	8	18

Washington County's Negroes, once numerous on Middle Fork and Richland Creek and in the western part of the county, are now concentrated in Fayetteville. In the 90 years since 1860, the county's Negro population had dropped from 1,538 to 422, the 1950 census figure. Of these, 422 Negroes, 189 are male, 233 female. 346 of Washington County's 422 Negroes are over 14, leaving only 76 under 14 years of age.

Report of Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met Sept. 8 in the hospitality room of the Arkansas Western Gas Company. Present were the following Board members: Mrs. Read, Miss Albright, Miss Gallaway, Messrs. Root, Humphreys, Richardson, Logan, Shreve, Buchanan, Rothrock, Feathers, Lemke – and several invited guests.

It was voted to award the Society's "Distinguished Citizen" citation to the Rev. William Sherman, Mr. Ben Shreve and Mr. J.P. Stokenbury.

It was decided to hold quarterly meetings of the entire membership of the Society.

The directors discussed the possibility of having an official Washington County flag and several designs were shown. The president was instructed to contact county officials about the matter.

Tom Feathers reported on his research in old Washington County post offices. A.S. Humphreys reported on the Society's genealogical records and showed the bound volume of records that have been turned in to date. The secretary-treasurer reported a balance of $300 in treasury.

Some Thoughts at the End of the Washington County Historical Society's First Four Years

Local history is a unique and satisfying hobby. It has spiritual overtones, since the digging out and recording of past events is done for the sheer pleasure of doing it. And with no expectations of reward, if we except the professional researchers and genealogists.

The trouble with local history is that it has become pretty much a spectator sport. Too many people are content to sit back and enjoy the activities of their county historical society without contributing time and effort. Yet there is hardly a member of a local society who doesn't have some family history or other information that ought to be recorded and preserved. And historical records, pictures and documents that ought to be shown on occasion.

Another discouraging thing is the lack of interest in local history on the part of men who are influential in the community – men who ought to see the practical value of local history (tourist business) even though they may not understand its cultural and spiritual values (community pride). For example, only one county official and one city official are members of the Washington County Historical Society. As for the preachers – well, we have two on our membership roll.

If any Washington County community leader thinks that he got where he is by his own efforts, he'd better look into history. He is where he is because of pioneers who blazed their way, and their successors. That sort of thinking will produce humility – something our present age is greatly in need of.

Our Society has survived because there are enough people in Washington County willing to pay $3 a year and to give us a word of encouragement from time to time.

And because a small group of officers and directors are willing to give time and effort to the cause.

All of which leads us to our plans for 1955. During the coming year we hope to establish a historical museum in Fayetteville -- preferably in one of the old homes – and make it a repository for historical records and objects, and a place that our own people, as well as the tourists, will delight in visiting. This will take money -- and plenty of effort. But it can be done – if we forget the "fast buck" for a while and build for the future. We ask some of our more substantial citizens to keep this project in mind. You'll hear more about it during the coming year.

If you have enjoyed the issues of FLASHBACK and the Bulletin during the past year, and the pilgrimages to historic sites, the "Distinguished Citizen" award to the builders of our County, and our other activities, we ask you to give us you continued support in 1955.

The officers and directors of the
Washington County Historical Society
By W.J. Lemke, president

FLASHBACK

Washington County Historical Society
118 East Dickson
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Fayetteville, Arkansas
Permit No. 1

Pass this copy of FLASHBACK to a friend, then get them to join (see inside back cover) and get their *own* copy.

Serials Dept.
University Libraries
University Of Arkansas
Fayetteville ar 72701

University of Arkansas
Libraries, Fayetteville
ARK COLL
51:2
Received on: 06-22-01
Flashback, preserving the
past for the future